



The Park Slope Paper

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DEMOLITION MAN

Ratner preps Atlantic Yards site

Carolers to Bruce: You're a Scrooge!

By Emily Keller
for The Brooklyn Papers

At first glance, the carolers — with their red-and-green felt hats, their sheet music and their accordion accompaniment — appeared to be just another group of holiday mirth-makers on Park Slope's Fifth Avenue this week.

On the 12th day of Christmas, Bruce Ratner took from me 12 months of taxes/11 blocks of sidewalks/10 acres peopled/nine cultures mixing/eight unduglousd subways/seven days a-strolling/six sportless months/DEMO-CRA-CY/your years in building/three neighborhoods/two thoroughfares/and an apartment for my family!

If the lyrics didn't give them away, a closer inspection of the jaunty hats revealed the words "eminent domain abuse" with a red slash mark through them — a symbol of groups opposed to Ratner's sports, residential and commercial mega-development at the Atlantic Yards.

The so-called Prospect Heights Action Carolers (sic) were mostly well received in Park Slope, but they



The Prospect Heights Action Carolers (sic) sing out against the Atlantic Yards project in Park Slope.

did quickly overstay their welcome at the new Commerce Bank on Fifth Avenue.

At first, an unsuspecting bank employee let the revelers inside — but once there, the singers broke into some of their big hits, turning "Jingle Bell Rock" into "Ratnerville Sucks" and "Silent Night" into "Blighted Heights."

"Ratner's a shmoe and Ratnerville blows," they sang to frightened employees, including bank manager Eileen Holmes, who worried the new branch's image would be tarnished.

"We can't get political," said Holmes. "We're not supposed to have this stuff. We'll get hate mail."

But one customer threatened to close his brand new account if Holmes booted the singers.

The customer, Jon Crow, told The Brooklyn Papers that he had opened an account with the bank because it showed good faith when it abandoned a plan for a drive-through window after local complaints.

"If I hear different[ly], I'm going to close my account here," Crow warned Holmes.

After filling the bank with holiday cheer, the carolers headed towards Seventh Avenue, where they encountered giggles, smirks and indifference.

Some pedestrians said they thought the lyric, "Ratner hell time/Some thing smells time/To line pockets at the MTA," was about the transit strike.

But the singers were undaunted.

"Our caroling is one of those little events that drive the big guys crazy," said Schellie Hagan.

But it was unclear how crazy. Joe DePasquo, a spokesperson for the big guy himself, said simply, "For what it's worth, we hope that they — and the handful of people they speak to — have a wonderful holiday season."

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

It has begun: Bruce Ratner has started clearing the site of his proposed Atlantic Yards arena, residential and office mega-project.

Workers wearing gardening gloves and knit caps arrived at the moody Samuel Underberg Building at the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues around 11:30 on Tuesday morning to begin what will be a months-long process of removing tox-

ic asbestos and then demolishing the 19th-century structure.

Five other buildings nearby will follow — the historic beginning of a project that may take more than a decade to complete and cost \$3.5 billion.

In this first step this week, the

workers used grocery carts to haul odd pieces of furniture and mixing bowls still wrapped in plastic from the Underberg building, which once housed a food supply store.

The buildings — all owned by Ratner or in contract to be sold to him —

will be demolished before the mega-project is even approved.

The initial demolition work followed a report issued by a Ratner-hired engineer that recommended the building be torn down to prevent a col-

See RATNER on page 13

TAKE A HIKE

Transit union strikes, Brooklyn walks

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

He was there when they went to work in the morning, trudging over the Brooklyn Bridge in their sneakers or walking their bikes, and he was there when they came back, a little worse for wear, but still in good spirits.

Many bi-ped commuters just assumed Borough President Markowitz spent the entire first day of the strike on the bridge's fabled footpath.

"Welcome back to the big time, Brooklyn, USA!" the impressive Beep told his constituents as they returned home during the evening rush hour on Tuesday.

Despite the hassles of the day, most were smiling.

"Were you here all day, Marty? God bless you," one woman said.

"No, just a couple of hours in the morning and a couple of hours now," Markowitz told her. But he got a hug anyway.

On a practical level, Markowitz was steering the mass of humanity towards Borough Hall, where his staff was dispensing coffee, tea and little Entenmann's carrot cakes (not bad, by the way).

This being Brooklyn, there were some who viewed Markowitz's caffeinated offering warily.

"Is it free?" asked one man.

"Of course it's free!" Markowitz said. "Oy, the last thing I need is to charge people for coffee. I'd be on the front page of all the papers!"

On a less-practical level, Markowitz said he felt an obligation to entertain the troops during the strike.

"What else can I do? I don't have a seat at the negotiating table," he told The Brooklyn Papers. "I feel that this is the least I can do to keep people's spirits up."

Dozens of people took Markowitz up on his offer, drinking the contents of three large coffee

urns and using up several rolls of toilet paper, a Markowitz spokeswoman said.

Welcome to Brooklyn

One Upper East Sider who decided he'd walk to work in DUMBO got hopelessly lost — while he was still in Manhattan!

The confused pedestrian started down Second Avenue, which would have led him to the Manhattan Bridge — but when foot traffic was too heavy, he shifted to First Avenue.

When he got to the eastern spur of Canal Street, he turned left instead of right, and "ended up getting lost in that crazy off-the-grid tangle down there," his boss, who requested anonymity for everyone involved, told The Brooklyn Papers.

"When he finally got to work, he was tired, yes, but far more mortified that he had gotten lost on the island of Manhattan."

A timely class trip

For a Fort Greene school, the transit strike made for an exciting class trip.

More than 40 students from the Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice — the ones who actually made it to school on Tuesday — headed to Cadman Plaza, where a group of transit strikers were walking the picket line.

"We decided this was a good chance to show the students something relevant to their lives and the legal issues they study," said teacher Julian Sciammarella, who handed out clipboards and told the students to interview the strikers.

"They really want their money," said ninth-grader Ediana Heslop, who lives in Flatbush. "I understand where they're coming from, but if I'm going to be a lawyer, I need to understand both sides."

But Heslop added, even standing in the cold to interview strikers was "more fun than a regular day at school."



Mayor Bloomberg marches over the Brooklyn Bridge Tuesday morning from the Office of Emergency Management building in DUMBO.

Real New Yorkers LOVE the transit strike

THE TRANSIT STRIKE is the best thing that could ever happen to us — even if some of us can't see it.

"Transit chaos!" screamed the front page of the Post. "We're Stuck," added the Daily News.

And these people call themselves New Yorkers?

Let's face it, the only time a New Yorker is truly happy is when he gets to complain about how tough it is to be a New Yorker.

So what's the inconvenience of

THE BROOKLYN
ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman

biking or walking in the cold to a job you probably hate when you can whine all day about it and be completely justified?

New Yorkers generally don't talk to each other, but the transit strike actually brought us together, as we shared cars and shared war stories. I even talked to a woman from Canar-

sis (from Canarsie, Jerry! Canarsie!).

Naturally, reporters ignored the real story and chose to lead the gripe parade. At the mayor's digs — the Office of Emergency Management headquarters under the Brooklyn Bridge, where he slept on a double-wide cot and an air mattress — news producers

screamed at mayoral spokesman Jordan Barowitz after he said the mayor would not do live interviews with Matt and Katie or Harry Smith.

"You don't understand," one of the producers screamed. "This is a

network!"

"This is a transit strike," Barowitz retorted.

The mayor, hatless, eventually emerged, and gave his first exclusive of the day to this bike-grease-stained writer.

"The hospitality I've experienced in Brooklyn has been extraordinary," Hizzoner said, although he did echo the most persistent culinary complaint of DUMBO residents: No bagels.

"I would have thought that our commissioner, Joe Bruno, a lifelong

Brooklynite, would have ensured that there was coffee and good bagels. I will talk to him about that."

Fortunately, the mayor was told, La Bagel Delight has finally opened on Front Street.

Bloomberg walked a few more blocks in his faded jeans and tasseled loafers, and then he was off, bounding up the stairs of the Brooklyn Bridge towards the world beyond.

People travel from all over the globe to walk over the Brooklyn Bridge. So who am I to complain?



Boro's biggest New Year's nightlife guide

P 10



'Too much of a good thing — is WONDERFUL.' — Mae West

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December 24, 2005

Attacked at home in a dark hallway

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

It was a welcome-home surprise that one Fifth Avenue resident would rather forget.

Police said the 50-year-old woman arrived at her building, near Seventh Street, around 5 pm on Dec. 18, and headed for her mailbox.

But before she got inside

the building, two strangers pushed through the door behind her and shoved her to the ground.

"Give us your pocketbook and we won't hurt you," one man insisted, according to police.

The thugs snatched her bag and bolted, \$300 richer than when they arrived.

The woman said the dark hallway prevented her from seeing her attackers.

Mid-day mug

This after-school special didn't have a happy ending.

A man snatched an mp3 player from a teenage girl walking home from school on Prospect Park West on Dec. 16, police said.

The thief grabbed the Dell device from the 14-year-old's hands as she reached the top of Union Street. He disappeared before she could get a good look at him, police said.

Robbed on 5th

A Fifth Street woman was just steps from home when two strangers attacked her from behind and pushed her to the pavement around 8 pm on Dec. 16, police said.

The 47-year-old woman said she had been walking home from the train and had just gotten to her street when the thieves grabbed the bag in her right hand and ran down Eighth Avenue.

The victim could only describe one of the attackers as a black man, 6-foot-1, and dressed in black, according to police. Her bag held a driver's license, a handful of credit and bank cards, a CUNY school ID, a cellphone and \$120.

Armed heist

The request was simple and direct: "I have a gun. Give me your money." The response was swift.

The 45-year-old man who was confronted by the gun-toting stranger on Berkeley Place and Plaza Street West at 7:25 pm on Dec. 13, quickly turned over the \$20 he had in his pocket.

According to police, the thief then ran north on Plaza Street to Flatbush Avenue. Police are now searching for a black man, 5-foot-1 and 180 pounds, who was wearing a gold jacket and black cap on the night of the crime.

Morning mug

A pair of thugs brutally robbed a woman walking along Seventh Avenue in broad daylight on Dec. 13, police said.

The two thieves pounced on the 24-year-old woman, who was walking to the subway station, as she neared St. John's Place, putting her in a headlock and tossing her to the pavement.

The thugs punched and kicked her before snatching her purse, which held \$30, credit cards and a cellphone. The woman wasn't seriously hurt.

Police are looking for two black men, one 5-foot-10 and one 6-foot-1, both dressed in black snorkel jackets and blue pants.

Prowler nabbed

Police captured a burglar who had been hiding in a Sixth Street home to avoid the wrath of a man who chased him for nearly two blocks after catching him in the act of a robbery.

The 22-year-old prowler had busted through two doors in a home on Seventh Street, near Sixth Avenue, around 5:10 pm, according to police.

But the 55-year-old homeowner heard the crash and came running, chasing the would-be thief along Sixth Avenue and onto Sixth Street.

As the young varmint neared Fifth Avenue, he tried to push

open doors to several homes, plus a shed behind one home, in an effort to escape.

Eventually, he slipped inside one home, not far from Fifth Avenue. That's where police found him — and a hypodermic needle — later that day. The 22-year-old is charged with two counts of burglary, criminal mischief and trespassing and for possessing the needle, police said.

Thief thwarted

The burglar had a sob story.

But the victim had enough.

A 50-year-old man discovered a burglar trying to remove a bicycle from a basement bike rack in his home on Warren Street, near Fifth Avenue, around 5:40 pm on Dec. 17, police said.

The resident confronted the thief, who pleaded, "I'm just trying to feed my family."

But the burglar reconsidered his venture, ditched the bike in the vestibule and bolted out the door, police said.

Family scam

A burglar busted into a St. Marks Place building shortly after noon on Dec. 15 and cleaned out the jewelry box of a 50-year-old resident.

As the thief left the build-

ing, cops said he ran into the returning victim, who asked him, "Who are you looking for?"

"Is this the Cruz residence?" the quick-thinking robber replied. The victim told him the Cruz family had left years ago, so the robber thanked her and left.

Only later did the woman discover that her gold bracelets, rings, necklaces and earrings — valued at \$2,350 — had also disappeared.

Cops believe the thief got into the building because it is under construction.



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ABE'S FIRST MURDER

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A fatal stabbing on Myrtle Avenue before dawn on Dec. 11 took the life of a young Mexican immigrant and shattered Fort Greene's record of zero murders during 2005. Leonardo Abarca Morales, 19, was killed after a bar fight that may have stemmed from a beef that began in his native Mexico. Police arrested two brothers, Miguel, 22, and Carmelo Bello, 17, and charged them with killing Morales.

Police said the murder erupted a night of drinking at El Ranchito, a private social club on Myrtle Avenue, across the street from the J&W Restaurant, where Morales worked. Morales became belligerent during an argument with the Bello brothers and the trio "took the dispute outside," around 3 a.m., according to police. Police said one of the Bello brothers pulled a knife and stabbed Morales in the gut, arm and side. Morales died in the emergency room at Brooklyn Hospital.

All three men knew each other in their home country, police said.

Murder has virtually disappeared from Fort Greene in recent years. In 1990, the 88th Precinct saw 19 homicides, and murder remained in the double-digits until 2001, when the precinct had 11 homicides.

But this year, there has been one.

Nab gunman
A 17-year-old pulled a silver revolver on a woman and stole her cash and cellphone on Dec. 17, police said. The teenage robber jumped the 26-year-old victim from behind as she reached the corner of Myrtle and Clinton avenues, at 9:40 p.m., according to police. He put the pistol in her face and insisted, predictably, "Give me your wallet."

After the victim forked over \$20 and the phone, the armed mugger ran south on Clinton Avenue.

But police searched the area and soon noticed the suspect with two other teens, walking along Carlton Avenue, between Willoughby and DeKalb avenues, less six blocks from the site of the mugging.

The teenager made a sudden, suspicious move — possibly tossing the weapon — and police grabbed him. The victim identified him, and police arrested the teen on robbery charges.

They also found a gun that police believe was used in the holdup, but did not recover the cash or the cellphone.

Knifed for nothing
Two thugs stabbed a Pratt student repeatedly during a mid-afternoon attack Dec. 15, according to police.

The 22-year-old victim suffered knife wounds in the right leg and hand after the men attacked her at the corner of St. James Place and DeKalb Avenue, at 2:10 p.m. They jumped her as she walked to the bus stop and demanded she turn over her money and jewelry, police said.

But for reasons that remain mysterious, the men abandoned the attack and fled without any property from the woman, who was treated for her wounds at Brooklyn Hospital.

POLICE BLOTTER

Surprise guest

On the afternoon of Dec. 12, a Washington Avenue resident survived what some women consider their worst nightmare.

The 28-year-old woman returned to her basement apartment, near Greene Avenue, around 12:30 p.m., but did not lock her door once she was inside. That momentary oversight allowed a stranger to sneak into her home behind her.

The victim fled to the bedroom, where she hid until she thought the prowler had left, according to police. But when she emerged from the bedroom, the stranger was still there — now with a knife in hand.

"Shut up," he demanded. The woman ran toward the door and the stranger fled — without stealing anything — toward a nearby subway station, according to police.

She described the prowler as a white man, around age 35, 6-foot-1 and 190 pounds. He was decked out in a black sports coat and black skullcap.

Skater attack

A skateboarder became a crime victim on Dec. 17.

The 21-year-old boarder was getting radical on Myrtle Avenue shortly after 2 a.m. that day when a silver-and-gold sedan packed with four strangers began to follow him, police said.

When the gangly pimp-mobile parked, the four men jumped out and ran after the young man, chasing him into the parking lot of a closed gas station, near Classon Avenue.

The four thugs caught up with the victim and attacked, punching and kicking him. They snatched the cellphone from his waist, piled back into the car and speed off, cashbound on Myrtle Avenue, police said.

Avenue, police said.

A robber with the sedan's license number and expect to review the video tape from the gas station's security cameras.

Gates Av. mug

A robber with a steak-knife snatched cash and a paycheck from a Gates Avenue woman on Dec. 16, police said.

The man jumped the 23-year-old victim from behind as she climbed the stoop of her home, near Washington Avenue, just before 9 p.m. He held the brown-handled kitchen tool to her throat and said, "All I want is your money," police said.

A struggle ensued, and the thief pulled the woman down the stoop's stairs and snatched her wallet, police said. He then removed the cash — \$12 total — and a paycheck worth \$370 and tossed the wallet into the street, before bolting down Gates Avenue and onto Washington Avenue.

The victim described her attacker as a black man, around age 30, 6-foot-1 and dressed in blue pants and an orange T-shirt, despite the season.

An inside job?

Someone removed a pair of hefty, ungainly power tools from a Washington Avenue job site before holing down for the weekend, police said.

Police said a Pro-8 power floor sander and a Mercury floor buffer — valued at \$3,000 together — disappeared from the construction site at the home, near Fulton Street, between 8 p.m. Dec. 10 and 8 a.m. Dec. 12. A 28-year-old man working for the company that owns the missing equipment said many construction firms have keys to the job site, where he found the locks secure.



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Restaurant robbed

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A robber cleaned out the cash register at a Henry Street restaurant on Dec. 14, yelling to a witness who tried to stop him that he had a gun, police said. Witnesses said the thief came into the eatery, near Orange Street, shortly after 10 a.m. He ran to the cash register, helped himself to the bills inside, and bolted for the door. When a trio of Good Samaritans tried to stop the thief, he said, "I have a gun," and reached inside his jacket, police said.

The thug took a swing at one observer and ran from the restaurant, where he jumped in an old Ford Taurus and sped away, police said.

News flash

Perhaps the thief was searching for a story. Someone snatched a bag belonging to a news service employee working in a building at Washington and Front streets in DUMBO.

The 48-year-old victim said his possessions disappeared from the wire-service's fourth-floor office, sometime between 4 and 6 p.m. on Dec. 13. The bag contained various credit and charge cards and miscellaneous papers and records.

State crime

Like a gambler raising the stakes, the robber grew more greedy and violent during a Dec. 14 attack.

Police said the thug jumped a 26-year-old man at the corner of State and Bond streets, at 6:50 p.m. He grabbed the victim from behind, tossing him to the pavement. The thief then asked for \$20 and punched the man twice in the face.

Screaming, the victim played it safe. He pulled \$50 from his pocket, but police said the thug wasn't satisfied. "Are you kidding?" he said, and then punched the victim three times for good measure before running off.

The victim suffered cuts and scratches on his face.

Knife attack

A 21-year-old man was stabbed on Livingston Street mid-afternoon on Dec. 13, police said.

Chances are, the attacker will remain free, since the victim declined to tell police much about the crime. Police were only able to ascertain that two men stopped the victim as he walked between Hoyt and Bond streets at 2:50 p.m. He then plunged a knife into the man's side and ran.

Costly call

This cellphone bill was worse than any parent's nightmare.

Four thieves cost a mobile phone firm \$50,000 when they broke through the door of a shop near Bond Street on Dec. 17 and cleaned out a safe, police said. The robbers, at least one of whom was toting a gun, witnesses said, cleaned out the safe before witnesses could see their faces. But one thief left behind a wool hat, which police recovered.

POLICE BLOTTER

Cleaned out

A woman busy juggling childcare and laundry was cleaned out by quick-fingered thief on Dec. 14, police said.

Sometime between 4 and 6 p.m., the robber snatched the 38-year-old woman's purse from her shopping cart during her visit to a laundromat on Atlantic Avenue and Nevins Street, police said. The woman said she turned away to tend her child for just a mo-

ment. Apparently, that's all it took for the thief to tend to his own business.

Slumber theft

A sound sleeper on Atlantic Avenue lost a high-end computer and cashmere clothing to a burglar who wandered into his unlocked apartment on Dec. 17, police said.

The robber entered the 30-year-old man's home, near Smith Street, between 1 a.m. and 10 a.m., and walked out with a

\$3,700 G4 laptop, cashmere gloves and leather items, facial cosmetics and \$60, police said.

Ft. Greene stab

A fatal stabbing on Myrtle Avenue before dawn on Dec. 11 took the life of a young Mexican immigrant and shattered Fort Greene's record of zero murders during 2005.

Leonardo Abarca Morales, 19, was killed after a bar fight that may have stemmed from a beef that began in his native Mexico. Police arrested two brothers, Miguel, 22, and Carmelo Bello, 17, and charged them with killing Morales.

Police said the murder capped a night of drinking at El Ranchito, a private social club on Myrtle Avenue, across the street from the J&W Restaurant, where Morales worked.

Morales became belligerent during an argument with the Bello brothers and the trio "took the dispute outside," around 3 a.m., according to police. Police said one of the Bello brothers pulled a knife and stabbed Morales in the gut, arm and side. Morales died in the emergency room at Brooklyn Hospital.

All three men knew each other in their home country, police said. Murder has virtually disappeared from Fort Greene in recent years. In 1990, the 88th Precinct saw 19 homicides, and murder remained in the double-digits until 2001, when the precinct had 11 homicides.

Norman guilty again

Associated Press

Former Assemblyman Clarence Norman was convicted last week of stealing \$5,000 that was donated to his reelection committee in 2001.

A state Supreme Court jury found Norman guilty of grand larceny, falsifying business records and filing a false instrument. The jury deliberated for a week.

Norman, 54, was released after posting \$100,000 bail. Prosecutors said he faces up to seven years in prison at sentencing next year.

Norman's attorney, Edward Rappaport, said outside court the verdict was "very disappointing."

"I don't think the facts support the verdict," he said.

Testifying on his own behalf earlier this month, Norman admitted he deposited the disputed

\$5,000 check into his personal account. But he insisted he was owed the money because he had paid campaign workers out of his own pocket.

"It was a reimbursement," Norman told jurors. "I was trying to get my money back."

Norman was named in four indictments stemming from Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes's probe into whether he and other party leaders sold judgeships. The charges allege a pattern of criminal mismanagement of political finances, grand larceny and conspiracy.

The longtime assemblyman was forced to resign earlier this year after another jury convicted him of trying to conceal \$10,000 in contributions. He could receive four years in prison on that charge.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**Huge selection of Christmas Decorations...****Bows, Lights, & More!****You think THIS is bad?****At least no one's been shot, as in 1895****By Tom Gilbert**
for The Brooklyn Papers

Compared to the handball played by labor and management in the 19th century, today's transit strike is soft-ball, or maybe whiffle ball. Take the Brooklyn trolley strike of 1895.

While Roger Toussaint and Peter Kalikow exchange verbal brickbats, their 19th-century counterparts used real bricks and real bats—not to mention guns and bayonets.

Fueled by class tension between WASP management and a largely Irish-American workforce, the 1895 strike grew so violent so quickly that the police lost control of the city and a panicked governor called out the National Guard. It took 7,000 troops two weeks to restore order.

In those days, Brooklyn was an independent city and its lifeblood was the 650 miles of track operated by private transit companies on nearly every major street. These are the famed lines that gave residents of Brooklyn and their beloved baseball club the nickname "Trolley Dodgers."

The trolleys converted from horse to electric power in the early 1890s, offering faster cars, expanded service, and exploding profits for the trolley companies. It also put tremendous strain on the drivers, who worked stressful 12-hour shifts avoiding careless pedestrians, animals and pushcarts at the then-unheard-of speed of 20 miles per hour. Newspapers of the time are filled with accounts of walkers struck, maimed and killed by rampaging trolleys.

On Jan. 14, 1895, Master Workman Martin Connelly of the Knights of Labor led a walkout of Brooklyn's 6,000 trolley workers. Their demands? A 25-cent per-day raise and enforcement of a state law that limited shifts to 10 hours.

Management responded by bringing in thousands of strike-breakers from other cities, lured by 50-cent-per-day raises. This being Brooklyn, things got ugly quickly.

In working-class neighbor-



During the great Brooklyn trolley strike of 1895, which lasted two weeks, two men were killed and hundreds injured.



The 23rd Regiment of the Brooklyn Police Department, seen here on civil disturbance duty during the 1895 strike.

hoods from Williamsburg to Park Slope, strikers and—to the shock of the conservative Brooklyn Daily Eagle—their wives greased tracks, cut trolley cables, and smashed car windows with stones and bricks. Non-union trolley drivers were offered money if they would quit. Many who refused were beaten.

When the Brooklyn police, also largely Irish, showed no stomach to intervene, Governor Morton sent in 3,000 troops, and then 4,000 more. "Brooklyn Resembles an Armed Camp," blared the Jan. 21 Daily Eagle. The next day, at the intersection of Howard Avenue and Halsey Street, Captain Palmer's Seventh Regiment dispersed an angry crowd by firing over their heads.

A few blocks away, the same troops charged a crowd of 2,000, clubbing them with rifle butts and putting dozens in the hospital with broken noses, fractured skulls, and bullet and bayonet wounds.

Such tactics turned the tide and reduced the strike to sporadic acts of vandalism. By the beginning of February, the union was broken. The strike had lasted two weeks and cost the trolley companies and the workers \$500,000. Two men were killed and hundreds were injured.

The great trolley strike of 1895 left its mark on popular memory, as well as on the union movement. It inspired a popular song, The Brooklyn Strike, and serves as the background for Theodore Dreiser's novel, Sister Carrie. (One passage, ironic today, says, "As usual—and for some inexplicable reason—the men chose the winter for the forcing of the hand of their employers and the settlement of their difficulties.")

The strike may well have had a radicalizing influence on later transit workers, whose union had close ties to the Communist Party in the 1930s and 1940s, and which, under sharp-tongued leaders such as Michael J. Quill, has always been quick to talk strike.

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Fra Angelico, The Last Judgment: Paradise (detail), ca. 1435-40, Staatliche Museen, Berlin, Germany.

Photo: Jörg P. Anders / Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Gemäldegalerie.

This Holiday, give more, waste less



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Suggestions for a less-wasteful holiday season:

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- **Give entertainment**, such as museum memberships; tickets to movies, theater, concerts, or sporting events.
- **Give learning**, such as language or music lessons; classes in cooking, photography, or other favorite hobbies.
- **Give your time or talent**: offer free services, such as baby-sitting, pet-sitting, computer help, or home repairs.
- **Give fitness**, such as gym memberships, personal training sessions, or classes in yoga, pilates, or dance.
- **Give pampering**, such as a massage, facial, or manicure & pedicure.
- **Give to the greater good** by making a contribution to someone's favorite charity.



Other ways to cut down on waste this holiday season: • use an **artificial tree instead of a real tree**, and reuse it year after year. (If you do buy a real tree, leave the tinsel off so it can be composted in January.) • **send E-mail greetings**, rather than paper cards to cut down on paper waste • **wrap gifts in reusable gift bags or create your own gift wrap** using maps or comics. (If you buy gift wrap and greeting cards, make sure they're made from recycled paper.)

And don't forget to **donate usable items** that replace the gifts you receive. There are many local charitable organizations interested in receiving your gently used clothing, furniture, books, and electronic goods. For a list, visit www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless/donate.

For more ways to reduce New York's waste, visit the NYCWasteLe\$\$ website: www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless



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Protest nets a better bank for P'Slope residents



The happy-go-lucky crew at the new Commerce Bank on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope.

The Brooklyn Papers

Some banks give away free monogrammed totebags or click-top pens to get the community on their side, but this week, Commerce Bank raised the bar for customer service when it opened a branch in Park Slope that was designed specially to suit neighbors.

About one year ago, Slope residents began protesting the bank's plan to erect a branch with a three-lane drive-through and a strip-mall style parking lot on the corner of Fifth Avenue and First Street. Some opponents said it looked like "a UFO from planet Sprawl."

As a result, the New Jersey-based chain gutted plans for the drive-through, moved the small parking lot from the front of the store to the rear, and added parking for bikes. And instead of the proposed brown, McDonalds-style roof, the designers switched to Brooklyn-friendly brick. "Our goal was to compel Commerce Bank to ditch its suburban-style, drive-thru and we were successful," said Aaron Naparstek, president of Park Slope Neighbors. Borough President Markowitz said the process that created the neighborhood-friendly bank provided an example to all companies. "The best way to do business in Brooklyn is to work with and respect the community," he said in a statement preceding Saturday's ribbon-cutting.

— Ariella Cohen

'Major' TV event

The Brooklyn Papers

For the record, Rep. Major Owens (D-Crown Heights) does not advocate slavery.

But an interview between hard-hitting comedian Stephen Colbert, of "The Colbert Report," and the 12-term congressman last week could have left the casual viewer feeling that Owens wanted to repeal the 13th Amendment. The revelation came as Colbert was questioning Owens about the congressman's support for a higher minimum wage. When Colbert suggested that a better way to put more money in workers' pockets might be to require them to work longer hours, the conversation took an unusual turn:

Major Owens: Well, businesses would be more profitable if they went

back to slavery.

Stephen Colbert: I disagree with you there. **MO:** (surprised) They would NOT be more profitable if they went back to slavery?

SC: No, I just don't think it's worth it. That's where you and I differ.

MO: You could work people like the slaveowner did, from sun up to sun-down.

SC: That's a fairly shocking suggestion you just made.

But Owens did not, indeed, make it. "He does not support slavery," his spokesman, Omar Banmally, told The Brooklyn Papers. "But he did think the segment was very funny."

"The Colbert Report" airs nightly on Comedy Central. — Gersh Kuntzman



Rep. Major Owens's interview is available at ComedyCentral.com

This light stops traffic

The Brooklyn Papers

Attention to detail is clearly a Bay Ridge trademark.

After the city replaced an antique-style street lamp with a grotesque modern traffic light at the intersection of Fifth Ave-

enue and 78th Street recently, it was local residents and business owners who saw red.

"You can't believe how many calls we got!" said Josephine Beckman, district manager of Community Board 10. "It just shows how

much people care about the look of Fifth Avenue."

No one more so than Basil Capetanakis, head of the Fifth Avenue Board of Trade, a merchants group. "The good news is that DOT is stiffening the beloved antique lamp-post and will reinstall it early next year."

— Kuntzman

Moms want sidewalk fix

The Brooklyn Papers

The Queens of Kings have spoken: Fix our broken sidewalks!

Nearly half of Brooklyn moms said in a new poll that they routinely avoid walking down the street if it means pushing their tot in a stroller.

The most frequent complaint — made by 63 percent of Brooklyn mothers — was rough pavement, according to

the survey, just put out by Transportation Alternatives.

In Manhattan, moms were much more bothered discourteous drivers. Only 37 percent complained of bad sidewalks there.

The good news is that rudeness seems to be a Manhattan problem. Only five percent of Brooklyn mothers, as opposed to 11 percent in "the city," cited rude pedestrians as the reason they don't

bother going outside with their strollers.

Transportation Alternatives hailed the study as the first ever "Stroller Report Card."

"We plan on continuing with this type of study that shows how simple things can be made so hard by poorly maintained sidewalks and

streets," said Tresa Horney, the mass-transit-advocacy group's "pedestrian campaign director." "Mobility is a huge issue [for] parents. How can the greatest city in the world overlook some of its most precious inhabitants?"

— Kuntzman

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 29th day of November, 2005, bearing Index Number N200505005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at ONE COURT SQUARE, COURT 141 Longstreets Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 301, upon application to the undersigned, the name of SOPHIA JULIA SCARLETT, her present name is: Sophia Scarlett, New York 11212, My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York, My date of birth is: February 07, 1980.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of December, 2005, bearing Index Number N200505005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at ONE COURT SQUARE, COURT 141 Longstreets Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 301, upon application to the undersigned, the name of SOPHIA JULIA SCARLETT, her present name is: Sophia Scarlett, New York 11212, My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York, My date of birth is: February 07, 1980.

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A church cancels Christmas

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

The church inside a church has cancelled Christmas. Sovereign Grace City Church — which subleases space in a former cathedral on Court Street in Carroll Gardens that has been converted into condos — called off its traditional yuletide service.

The cancellation comes in the midst of an ugly legal battle between the non-denominational congregation and the condo owners, who have argued that a having a church in a residential building lowers property value and disrupts lay Sunday mornings.

Sovereign Grace is the first church to have the 150-year-old Romanesque cathedral since it was converted for residential use 25 years ago.

The residents are suing to evict the church from the former church building.

"That's not the only irony," said Jean Miele, who owns a condo that includes an atrium — which he subleased to the church.

"When I was approached by a church, I thought it was perfect. Who knew that property values could dictate a church's right to practice?"

The small congregation celebrated with carols and a short candle-lighting ceremony on December 23.

The fact that a legal skirmish could disrupt centuries-old holiday ritual says more about the borough's housing boom than any secular turn.

"The need for housing may be greater than the need for large, soaring grandly inspired spaces," said local realtor Christopher Thomas. "In high-density areas, there are going to be conflicts, whether it's a discotheque, bar or church."

The number of buildings undergoing conversion for residential use has surpassed its recent peak in 1973, records show. Over the past few years, the Brooklyn Diocese closed 26 parish schools, many of which are now apartment buildings.

Three historic churches in Fort Greene are also undergoing conversion — prompting many to wonder whether the borough of churches has become the borough of condos.

"What's changing is the way we use buildings," Thomas said. "My suspicion is that there are just as many churches as there were 50 years ago. They are just in different spaces. Maybe we should call it the borough of conversions."

Nets getting it together

By Lucky Ngamwajast
The Brooklyn Papers

Charlotte 91
Nets 83

Dec. 14, at E. Rutherford

Nets 115
Denver 106 (OT)

Dec. 16, at E. Rutherford

Nets 118
Golden State 90

Dec. 18, at E. Rutherford

Could the Brooklyn-bound Nets finally be showing signs of life?

After a terrible loss to Charlotte, Nets President Rod Thorn ripped into the team, calling for accountability from his players, who responded with a gritty overtime victory over ex-Nets Kenyon Martin and the

Nuggets and a blowout win over the Golden State Warriors. New Jersey returned to the swamps against the Bobcats, whom they had beaten just a week earlier. The Nets had jumped out to a 20-9 lead in the first quarter and seemed well on their way to snapping their three-game home losing streak.

Still, the Cats would keep it close and were down at halftime by just six points, 40-34. Out of the break though, the Nets got blitzed by Brevin Knight, who scored a career high 25. Jumaine Jones came off the bench and chipped in with 15, while Eneke Okafor was a force off the inside, grabbing 13 rebounds and scoring 14 of his own.

At the end, New Jersey was given a Bronx cheer by the Richard Jefferson led the Nets with 25 and Vince Carter had 22. But it's a long season, and the Nets may come to look at Friday night's game against the Nuggets as a turning point. The Brooklyn-Bounders again got

off to a great start against Carmelo Anthony & Co., jumping to a 22-4 lead, thanks to the three-point shooting touch of Carter, who nailed three.

The Nuggets clipped the lead all the way down to two by the end of the first half, 47-45. New Jersey did a great job on Anthony, holding the former Syracuse star to 6-for-23 shooting on the night, but was killed by the Denver bench players, Earl Watson and ex-Knick DeMar Johnson, who attacked the Nets from long range. The pair shot a combined 8-for-14 from behind the arc.

But the bench responded, led by Scott Padgett, who has become a favorite in Coach Lawrence Frank's rotation. Padgett dialed long-distance as freely as a Wall Street analyst in the overzealous markets, shooting a perfect 5-for-5 for a total of 15 points on the night.

Still, the game was nip and tuck, with Denver seizing the lead late in the fourth on an alley-oop dunk by Anthony, with 1:25 left. After a pair of Anthony free throws, it was Super Sub to the rescue, as Padgett hit another three to draw Jersey within one. After Andre Miller hit a pair of from the line, Jason Kidd came to the rescue. Kidd nailed what might be the biggest shot of the season: an open three with 20 seconds left in regulation. The Nets would go on to prevail in OT, led by Carter's 34.

The Nets then blasted Golden State. It was all over in the first quarter, with Kidd running, RJ dunking and VC shooting. Carter and Kidd both shot 6-for-7 in the quarter as New Jersey easily handled the Warriors. Kidd was a one rebound short of a triple-double, scoring 24 points, 9 rebounds and 13 assists.

At the end, New Jersey was given a Bronx cheer by the Richard Jefferson led the Nets with 25 and Vince Carter had 22. But it's a long season, and the Nets may come to look at Friday night's game against the Nuggets as a turning point. The Brooklyn-Bounders again got

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December 24, 2005

Brooklyn PARENT

New moms meet over martinis

THE OTHER DAY, Smartmom found this invitation in her in-box: "If you are getting 'apartment fever' and feel the need to get out and meet other local parents, then come to the City Baby Brooklyn Holiday Happy Hour."

A Happy Hour for new moms? Wow, things have really changed in the Boro since Teen Spirit (now 14) and the Oh So Festy One (8 going on 30) were but babes-in-the-Slope.

Sure, Smartmom and her friends used to joke about the two-martini play date. But it was a JOKE. Really. She and her friends were too busy watching over their babies and constructing IQ-enhancing black-and-white mobiles to put over their crib.

And they would never have openly mixed drinking with mothering, let alone breastfeeding. Who would want to compromise their child's Stanford Binet scores for entrance to Saint Ann's for something as banal as a drink — no matter how much it was needed?

Heck, back when Smartmom was a new mom, all her comrades were so darn serious. Having inhaled Penelope Leach, Dr. Sears, and "What to Expect When You're Expecting," they'd set the bar pretty high for the mommy Olympics. It wasn't enough to be with your tiny offspring 24/7, but you had to be interacting, reading, singing, dancing and playing with them incessantly and it did get incessant, even for Smartmom, not that she feels guilty.

And then there were the post-feminist critics: some of her mom friends worried that they'd sacrificed

their careers for motherhood, while others worried that they'd sacrificed motherhood for their careers. Who had time for a therapy hour let alone a Happy Hour?

But sometimes a Two Boots Margarita after a long day imprisoned (or, playing) in the apartment sounded pretty good (even if a ball of pizza dough might land in your drink). Perhaps the new moms of Park Slope are taking better care of themselves.

Maybe they are even redefining Slope motherhood and having a little more fun in the process. Sounded like Smartmom needed to accept that Happy Hour invitation.

Call it a "fact-finding" mission.

At The Comfort Zone, one of the new additions to the Fifth Avenue's restaurant row, more than 30 mothers filled the cafe's cozy backroom.

Happy hour? Only if you were 6-months old and your drink was breastmilk, straight up.

Smartmom checked right away if any of the breastfeeding moms were boozing. Nope — strictly herbal teas.

Still, they enjoyed each other's company, comparing pregnancy weight gain, epidurals, and pre-school waiting lists.

They were all well under 40,

which made Smartmom feel like a jaded, older mom. Thankfully, most of them were suffering from acute sleep deprivation and a form of post-partum OCD.

The toddler moms were having a tougher time of it in the cafe, and, not coincidentally, they were the ones ordering up the Char-donnays. Getting up and down from the comfortable velvet cushions, they chased after their energetic toddlers, who were running around the cafe like a mom at Little Things shopping for a gift 10 minutes before a birthday party.

Ah yes, SM remembered the days when it was impossible to have an uninterrupted conversation with anyone. When OSFO was a toddler, Smartmom threatened to call the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children every time

Manhattan Granny ("I'm just trying to be helpful") suggested a playpen and a leash.

Finally, Smartmom found Alison Lowenstein who had invited her to the Happy Hour in the first place. Lowenstein is the author of the parenting book, "City Baby Brooklyn: The Ultimate Guide to Parenting From Pregnancy to Preschool" (Rizzoli/Universe). Lowenstein was sitting alone by the window with her

adorable, and smartly dressed 2-year old and a big box of books for sale.

SMARTMOM RECOGNIZED LOWENSTEIN as the kind of woman she would have hated passionately when she was a new mom. She made new motherhood look too easy. And, she had the nerve to complete "City Baby Brooklyn," as well as her first mommy-lit novel all before her well-behaved daughter was 2 1/2. She has a book out and an agent — all with a toddler! Damn her!

Write a novel? Smartmom barely had time to READ a short story (and it took two weeks). Smartmom had literary aspirations, make no mistake, but they somehow never got past her nightly ritual of reading "Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?" with different voices for the animals.

Not only does she write, but Lowenstein teaches English part-time at a local college and is pregnant with her second child. Blonde and with a small "bump," she looked fabulous in chic black maternity gear.

Genr. OSFO was born nearly nine years ago and Smartmom's "bump" looks bigger than hers. So Smartmom had to ask: "How do you do it?"

"Well, my daughter was just so good about it. She was 18-months old, and every day we'd pick a new neighborhood to explore. Researching the book was really fun."

Smartmom remembered that when OSFO was 18-months, she was lucky if she could answer an e-mail without OSFO unplugging the computer.

Lowenstein is obviously talented,

energetic, and, most importantly, organized. Otherwise, how else did she manage to get out of the house, let alone wash and shower, when her kid was 18-months-old? Think Joyce Carol Oates for the mommy-set.

And her book is an essential survival guide for living in Brooklyn with a baby. Read about Willie Bee's, a hip kid's play space/cafe in Williamsburg; Book Mart, a child-friendly bookstore in Bensonhurst with an enormous back area for kids; Saturday art classes at Pratt Institute in Clinton Hill; and more. Lowenstein's book is sure to become a must-have resource for Brooklyn parents from Coney Island to Greenvale.

Smartmom walked out onto Fifth Avenue to ponder her original question: Were these new moms really that different from Smartmom and her friends?

WELL, THESE MOMS KNOW how important it is to get out and have some fun. And they're much more comfortable being stay-at-home-moms than Smartmom's friends were back in the "Supermom '90s."

But are they different? Not really. That first year of motherhood is still a long journey from innocence to experience. Like Smartmom, the current crop of new mothers are as nervous, serious, high-strung, and sleep-deprived as she was.

And one day, they, too, will probably feel just as impatient and old in a roomful of breastfeeding moms. They just don't know it yet. And since no one was there to let Smartmom that at the time, Smartmom

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

December 24, 2005



Live art

Curators celebrate 25 years of marriage that spawned museum, artworks & 2 kids

By Lee Cabot Walker
for The Brooklyn Papers

There is no sincerer love than the love of food," the armchair says. Strange that an armchair would speak? Sure, if it's a run-of-the-mill armchair. But the seat in question is called "Blabbermouth," and it's a sculpture on display in Micro Museum's "Silver" exhibition, a celebration of the curators' 25th wedding anniversary and artworks they've created together.

"We're interested in living art," says Micro Museum co-owner, curator and artist Kathleen Laziza about the philosophy she shares with her husband, William. Micro Museum's mission is to exhibit "impressive, labor-intensive," groundbreaking work by living artists. Most of the works on display, whether they're live performance art or interactive installations, like "Blabbermouth," are, in a sense, living.

"Blabbermouth" is a pastie-upholstered armchair with a computer keyboard built in its right side, below the arm. When the visitor sits in the chair touches a key, statements by the likes of George Bernard Shaw, Katherine Cebrian, Mark Twain and Oscar Wilde boom from speakers in the room.

Another prominent work is "The Lumino," an upright piano with built-in colored circles that light up at the touch of a key. Then there's "Phone-I-Ture," a loveseat with a phone built into each arm. Lifting the receiver automatically rings the person next to you, and pressing the phones' buttons prompts colored cylinders placed inside a furniture-style TV, called "3-D TV," to light up.

All of these works were created by Kathleen and William from the late 1980s to 2000. Whereas the museum's primary purpose is to invite other artists to display their work, the art and performances by the Lazizas are the exclusive focus of "Silver." The intricate nature of their art defies description; it has to be actively experienced.

"We're trying to create the old 'Yule Log'

experience [with "3-D TV"], where you actually participate," Kathleen says. "Everything is so passive now."

Kathleen and William, 50 and 56, respectively, moved to New York City in 1980. In her early 20s, Kathleen was trained in painting, though she later switched to mostly "eclectic" performance art choreography. William, who by day is a telecommunications engineer, specializes in video-art and low-tech optics in his other life as an artist. Living first in the East Village and then in SoHo, the pair collaborated on choreographed performance art in the 1980s.

Pushed out of Manhattan by ever-rising rent, the Lazizas moved to Boerum Hill in 1986.

"We loved this neighborhood — as soon as we found it," Kathleen says. "It was Arabic, and William grew up in the Middle East. I was Puerto Rican, and I grew up in Texas. Diversity is important to us, and here you encounter lots of very interesting people."

Good neighbors

In 1986, the Lazizas and their then 3-year-old son (they now have two, ages 17 and 22) moved into the second floor of the three-story building at 123 Smith St. In 1997, they bought the building, moving their living space to the third floor, continuing to exhibit art and to rent out rehearsal space on the second floor.

In 2002, when the first floor tenant moved out, the Lazizas renovated the space, and the museum moved to its current, street-level location. They continue to rent out the second floor, mainly to performing artists, on an hourly basis. The floor's third room serves musicians and the 19-foot by 38-foot rehearsal space in the back gets used by dancers and martial arts classes.

"Artists need a place to be — a place to be understood, a place that's clean," says Kathleen. "I used to practice dance in the East Village, and there would be sewage dripping from the ceiling! Am I going to roll around in that? No way!"

"It's important to us that people are doing



Hugs and kisses: (Above left) "The Kissing Installation" is one of the artworks on display at the Micro Museum's "Silver" exhibition, celebrating the fruitful decades of collaboration between artist-curators Kathleen and William Laziza. (Above) Kathleen takes a call from her loveseat, "Phone-I-Ture."

their best work for the world and for New York City. We're really dedicated to that."

The Musician's General Store on Court Street rents space at the Micro Museum, where it conducts three classes a week.

"Holding music lessons in the Micro Museum has certainly helped us," says Musicians General Store co-owner Mingo Tull. "It's a creative entity, so it's sort of a no-brainer to do music lessons there. I wish we had more venues like that. There's such a lack of facilities to showcase different types of media."

The Lazizas pride themselves not only in running a space that helps other artists, but in creating an exhibition space that is family-friendly.

"We really pride ourselves on being accessible to children," Kathleen says. The exhibit currently visible through the museum's front window is called "Pond Effect," and incorporates stacked, metallic-colored, cylindrical, plastic building blocks arranged in circles and swirls, placed at floor level so that children can rearrange them.

One installation, "Videograph," allows the viewer to manipulate color patterns on an upward-facing TV monitor by placing shapes on the monitor and by spinning the table in which the monitor is embedded. "Videograph" was called an example of "The art of the future" in the New York Times' millennium section on Jan. 1, 2000.

Another piece, "Spring Fever," is a collection of about 30 wearable blazers of varying styles that Kathleen "built" by meticulously

gluing craft flowers and leaves onto them. The jackets are meant to be worn — often in street performances. One shrug that is completely covered in rose petals took Kathleen 40 hours to create.

"We're interested in labor-intensive art," she says. That is also one of the criteria by which the Lazizas evaluate potential exhibitors, with whom the museum is very selective. Highlighted artists in the past have included Stephen Schriver, who made minutely-constructed, detailed collages; J.T., who makes huge paintings covered in "tiny, tiny" peaks of paint; and Kant Ortiz, a photographer whose photos represent "highly crafted, bizarre narratives," according to Kathleen.

In 2006, Micro Museum debuts a new program, "Open Walls," for which the museum will hold an open call for artists' work every week, and will exhibit a different selection of work each Saturday.

"Most museums are for showing the work of dead artists, but we're really looking from the living artist's point of view. What is the artist trying to say?" Kathleen explains. "The name of the museum is metaphorical. It's relatively small — 'micro,' and it's about looking very closely at living artists' work."

The museum also produces "Spontaneous Combustion," an arts program that airs on BCAT the third Saturday of every month.

"Complete strangers come up to me and say, 'It's so great what you're doing,'" Kathleen says. "The neighbors are very proud. We're like the couple that made good."

FASHION

Belting it out

Bedford-Stuyvesant-based designer Sarah Morgan (pictured) has invented a new must-have accessory for women who like to do everything from shopping to clubbing without a bulky purse: a belt-bag.

But this is not your granny's fanny-pack, assures Morgan, a native of Wales. Her Sterling Belt-Bags, which comprise her Crown Heights Couture line, are meant to be worn low on the hips, tool-belt style, and are equipped with magnetized pockets. The "saddle style" version — which comes in several of-the-moment colors, including bronze and gold — has flat pockets that hold slim items like business cards and make for a more flattering silhouette suited for a night of dancing. Morgan's "tloret style" belt-bag is akin to a gunslinger's belt with deeper pockets to hold bulkier items like a cellphone, wallet and iPod.

The bags' embellishments range from Western-style whistling, nailheads and fringe to punk-rock D-rings, studs and cycles.

All versions of the belt-bags have brass buckles, which, when combined with the Argentinean cowhide, have a left equal to their price tag of \$230-\$300. The belt-bags can be purchased online at www.cenamaria.com or at Michelle New York (376 Atlantic Ave. between Hoyt and Bond streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 643-1680). —Lisa J. Curtis

SHOPPING

Take it easy

Shopping for the holidays has just been made easier with cars that are parked around Brooklyn for members to drive by the hour — instead of owning their own vehicles.

In June 2000, an American spin was put on a European idea: Zipcars were placed around key cities and neighborhoods for short-term auto rentals (car sharing) where people could drive cars by the hour — or day — on their terms. In June 2002, the company opened its first lot in Brooklyn.

Zipcar offers everything from MINI Coopers to Ford Escapes, which can really hold a lot of gifts. Gas, designated parking, maintenance, and XM Satellite radio are included in the hourly and daily rates.

"Customers first become members at a cost of \$50 a year, along with the one-time \$25 application fee," Zipcar representative Kim Hamelburg told GO Brooklyn. Cars are reserved online or by telephone at rates that start at \$8.50 an hour.

Customers then let themselves into the cars, which are parked in satellite lots around the city, using the Zipcard — cards similar to the safety devices used to enter office buildings. They return cars to the same locations, and charges are billed to credit cards already on file.

If you are looking to shop outside of Brooklyn, or if you're just planning to head across town and load up with bulkier gifts or supplies for a holiday party, Zipcar might be your answer.

Zipcar has satellite parking lots in Cobble Hill, DUMBO, Flatbush, Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope and Prospect Heights. For more information on lot locations and to reserve a Zipcar, e-mail info@zipcar.com, call (866) 4-ZIPCAR, or visit the Web site at www.zipcar.com.

—Monserrat Cabral

EVENT

GAP fireworks



At the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, pyrotechnic displays, anthems, pennies and weeping willows will light up the night sky above Grand Army Plaza in the borough's annual 20-minute fireworks display.

After the fiery excitement, produced by the Prospect Park Alliance, Borough President Markowitz will be sworn in for his second term. No drama there; Markowitz's re-election was the surest bet since Secretariat.

The Beep's re-election party will start at 11 pm at Grand Army Plaza with free drinks (alcohol, non-alcoholic) and a live 10-piece band, Deja Blu. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, all the Park hotline at (718) 965-8999 or visit the Web site at www.prospectpark.org. There are no fireworks on the East River this year.

—Arielle Cohen

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: SUNSET PARK

Bar BQ

689 Sixth Ave., at 20th Street (718) 499-4872, www.brooklynbarbq.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6.50-\$22.50. It's all Texas casual at the Sunset Park barbecue joint that's furnished with faux wood tables, a big wood bar and mirrors holding postcards in their corners. Heaps of barbecue and smoked meat — pulled pork, ribs, link, pulled chicken — are served in red-checked paper boats and are "amazingly moist, fall-off-the-bone" delicious, says GO Brooklyn's Tina Barry.

"I suppose it's Texas-style, but I think of it as Brooklyn barbecue," says Bar BQ owner Frank Tuminia. Of his secret dry rub recipe, he'll only reveal that salt, pepper, cayenne and paprika are in the mix. Cole slaw, mac & cheese, potato salad and baked beans serve as sides, and there's chocolate layer cake or pie-of-the-day for dessert.

And don't forget you're at a bar — at Bar BQ you can choose from 25 varieties of bourbon. Bar BQ is open Monday through Friday, from 3 pm to 11 pm, and weekends from noon to 11 pm.

Elite Turkish Restaurant and Cafe

805 46th St., at Eighth Avenue (718) 493-3535 (Cash only) Entrees: \$7.75-\$15.95.

Sample a taste of the exotic in this spacious, friendly atmosphere of Elite, decorated with silver and wood from Turkey, where owner Hasan Ustun says "we try to keep our prices lower than anybody else while having the best food to offer the people." Open since March, Elite bakes everything on the premises to keep it as fresh as possible. Ustun recommends the "lahmacun" (Turkish pizza), a thin, crispy crust topped with ground lamb, tomato, onion and seasoned with parsley and mint. Hot appetizers include falafel and wild onion, pan-fried phyllo dough filled with fat cheese, parsley and dill.

For an entree, try the chicken kebabs flavored with red bell peppers and paprika or, for the "man," poached beef dumplings served with yogurt sauce. Desserts include baklava and "suzleme" (sweet rice pudding). Free Turkish tea for all. The restaurant can be reserved for parties of up to 50 people. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily.

George's Restaurant

5701 Fifth Ave., at 57th Street, (718) 493-1403 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.95-\$25.

While its decor will satisfy your appetite for dim lighting and mirrored walls, George's restaurant will fill your belly with their popular dishes: a hunk of scrod fillet, deep-fried with shrimp curls of potatoes, served with creamy coleslaw. You haven't had a real meal until you've tried owner Ted Plaster's famous T-bone steak, served with salad, potato and vegetables. For breakfast, get a load of their egg omelets, served with home fries, toast and milk, muffin or bagel. At George's Restaurant, breakfast is served all the time. Inquire about special menus for holidays year-round. Delivery available. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Gia Lam II

5606 Eighth Ave., at 56th Street, (718) 567-0800 (Cash only) Entrees: \$4-\$18.

The original Gia Lam has vanished from Eighth Avenue, but fortunately its sequel dishes their Vietnamese cuisine down the street. It's still a "neighboring restaurant," says manager Lam Dang. "A lot of people don't even need to see the menu; they already know what they want," Dang explains.

Appetizers include grilled shrimp paste on sugar cane or jelly fish with shrimp and shredded pork salad. Rice dishes and "pho" (rice noodle soup), which are the most popular dishes according to Dang, make for quick and inexpensive lunches. Specialty dishes featuring eel, frog and an occasional beer-steamed lobster are a refreshing change of pace. Wash it down with an exotic drink, such as the "soda suet hot gr" (soda with egg yolk and condensed milk), or the "che ba mai" (three-color sweet bean ice drink). Open daily from 11 am to 10 pm.

Jade Plaza Restaurant

6022 Eighth Ave., at 61st Street, (718) 492-6888

★ = Full review available at

BrooklynPapers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



The "Kadavi" dessert at Elite Turkish Restaurant.

(AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6.95-\$18.95.

Stone dragons have guarded Jade Plaza's marble facade since it opened nine years ago, but don't let them intimidate you away from experiencing dim sum or dinner at this Sunset Park eatery. The spacious interior is inviting and the waitstaff's formal black dinner jackets with pink lapels are fantastic. Manager Herman Lee recommends the "sea lion" (pork and seafood dumplings) and the "har kau" (shrimp and bamboo dumplings) during dim sum, which begins at 8 a.m. Among the menu's new specialties are the diced filet steak with housemade sauce and the sautéed grouper fish cube with black olives. Open daily from 8 am to midnight.

Johnny's Pizza

5806 Fifth Ave., at 58th Street, (718) 492-9735 (Cash only) Pizzas: \$7-\$10, large pizzas: \$12.

Since 1968, this second-generation family business has served Sunset Park residents. Although limited in seating capacity, the pizzeria's full kitchen cooks up a full repertoire of pasta dishes, hero sandwiches and appetizers such as wings, chicken fingers and mozzarella sticks. Co-owner Johnny Minelli Jr. and Rocco Colucci's specialty squares (Sicilian slices) and chicken rolls (thin crust Italian bread), fresh basil, marinara sauce, mozzarella cheese, Parmesan cheese are a treat. For another customer favorite, Minelli recommends "Grandma's Pizza" — fresh mozzarella, fresh basil, "Grandma's special sauce" and chicken rolls on a thin, crispy crust. Catering and delivery are available. Open daily, Sunday through Thursday, from 10 am to 11 pm; Friday and Saturday, from 10 am to midnight.

Kakala Cafe

5302 Eighth Ave., at 53rd Street, (718) 493-9688 (Cash only) Entrees: \$2.25-\$7.25.

This serene diner-style cafe serves dishes ranging from "vegetarian" (chicken, pork, fish, egg or vegetable served atop your choice of rice or spaghetti) to dim sum or udon noodles. It's the perfect place to enjoy an afternoon of Chinese soap operas (playing on a television mounted in the corner).

Kakala's specialty is its pearl tea — a colorful blend of chilled or hot tea sweetened with fruit flavoring and goji berry balls or "bubbles." Also offered are flavored milks, such as pineapple or honeydew, pudding drinks in flavors like mango, almond and chocolate, and fruit-flavored red or green tea. For the more adventurous, try the baby octopus or the shark fin fish paste soup. Open daily from 10:30 am to 9:30 pm.

Mas Que Pan

5401 Fifth Ave., at 54th Street, (718) 492-0479 (Cash only) Sandwiches: \$7.75-\$2.80.

True to its name, Mas Que Pan is indeed "more than bread" — there are mountains of cookies, cakes, pastries and tarts to choose from at this Latino bakery. Joseph Peña opened the bakery with his father, Jose, eight years ago, and now he's brewing "the best cake au lait in New York," according to one Sunset Park resident. Another customer was recently overheard saying, "They make a hell of a Cuban sandwich." Open daily from 7 am to 7 pm.

Nha Trang Palace

5906 Eighth Ave., at 59th Street, (718) 492-8916 (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$4.50-\$18.95.

Sample traditional Vietnamese fare in this modern restaurant amidst bamboo and mirrored walls. Every dish on the extensive menu can be altered in spiciness, according to your preference. Appetizers include Vietnamese spring rolls, clam with coconut juice, and crispy squid served in garlic sauce. For entrees, Nha Trang Palace offers barbecued shrimp roll with sugar cane and vegetables; grilled beef with lemongrass and lettuce atop rice vermicelli; crispy red snapper with tomato sauce and more. Vegetarian options include sautéed mixed vegetables in oyster sauce and fried soy bean cake with lemongrass, onion, green pepper and chili. Try the "banh hung" (sweet egg custard) for dessert. Free delivery with a \$15 minimum order. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you want to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at Curtis@BrooklynPapers.com.



Jazz joint

Proprietor of Greenwich Village icon opens Night and Day in Slope

By Tina Barry

For The Brooklyn Papers

Few restaurants come with a proprietor whose history is as colorful as Night and Day's Judy Joyce. Joyce owned the Lion's Head, a legendary Greenwich Village bar that, for 30 years, served as a gathering place for the city's literati, journalists and anyone else who liked a stiff drink and could hold up his end of a conversation.

The "Head" as it was known to regulars, was opened in 1966 by Wes Joyce,

a former New York City cop and Judy's husband. She joined him as a partner in the bar from 1970 until his death in 1994. It closed two years later.

In his memoir, "A Drinking Life," reporter and Lion's Head regular Pete Hamill paints a picture of the setting.

"I don't think many New York bars ever had such a glorious mixture of newspapermen, painters, musicians, seamen, ex-communists, priests and nuns, athletes, stockbrokers, politicians and folksingers, bound together in the leveling democracy of drink."

With Night and Day, which opened on Park Slope's Fifth Avenue in July, Joyce hopes to establish a setting similar to the Head's egalitarian, easy-going

ambiance. In the back of the restaurant, named for the Cole Porter tune, is a recently completed, skylight-lit backroom that serves as a jazz club and a literary performance venue.

Her goal, Joyce says, is "to recreate the elegance, sophistication and the high-flying good times of the 1940s and 1950s jazz era" with her partner Robin Hirsch, owner of Manhattan's Cornelia Street Cafe.

To set the mood for their modern-day salon, the partners transformed the former site of Bibi's into a golden-toned dining room brought alive with jazz tunes. Amber lights cast a serene glow over linen-covered tables, and the long wooden bar, that runs the length of the main room, is already abuzz with sounds of the

chatty clientele. In the spring, an awning is erected over the patio.

The food was the establishment's weak point until November when Joyce replaced the former chef with the talented Simon Glenn (the third cook since the restaurant's opening) in the kitchen. Glenn, who has cooked for Jean-George's Spice Market, has a menu that traverses the world, but each country's ingredients stay on one plate so nothing gets too fusiony.

You'd be wise to start a meal with the



Salad days: At Night and Day restaurant in Park Slope, chef Simon Glenn's deconstructed nicotise salad (above left) features corn of yellowfin tuna. (Above) server Meredith McBride arrives with the nicotise salad (left) and roasted beef with watercress salad (right).

creamy mushroom soup with truffle oil that brings the freshness of a wooded glen, the scent of pine needles, and an earthy, mineral aroma to the bowl.

The appetizer of pork-seared duck livers are crisp-crusted and pink inside. The first taste of their sherry sauce was a touch sweet, followed by a hint of vinegar that balanced its spices and richness. I found the white wine broth spiced with garlic, lime and chili that accompanied another starter of perfectly cooked steamed mussels to be slightly sharp, but plenty of butter and basil mellowed the mix.

A nicotise salad is nothing special until it's deconstructed and served in a do-it-yourself mode. Glenn serves the yellowfin tuna as a confit poached in extra virgin olive oil and stored with an anchovy in a little glass jar. It's slightly salty and great as is, or mixed in a dish with housemade mayonnaise. You pile the fish on a slice of toasted French bread and nibble it with a cornichon (gherkin pickle), or a tiny black olive, or top it with a half of a ripe cherry tomato. One standout entree is the red wine

braised lamb shank "osso buco." Glenn gives the Italian dish a Mediterranean twist by accompanying two meaty, fall-off-the-bone pieces with baby artichoke halves and oven-dried tomatoes that have absorbed the wine and lamb juices. A sprinkling of feta lends a piquant touch of saltiness, while fresh oregano adds a slightly peppery note. It's a bold interpretation on the classic entree that held try attention from the first to the last bite.

A roasted, free-range chicken was everything it should be: crisp-skinned and moist-fleshed with well-seasoned pan juices and a few small, oven-cooked potatoes and pearl onions.

Like the chicken, Glenn keeps the desserts simple with a French twist. His chocolate soufflé is not too sweet or runny-centered and the pistachio gelato that melts over the top has just enough nutty pieces to add a pleasant crunch to the dish.

It took awhile for Joyce and Hirsch to find the right person for the kitchen. Now that this piece of the puzzle is in place, the change in the life, as well, as different as night and day.

Family 'Kitchen'

Rosemarie Motta doesn't want to brag, but she makes a "killer carne cake."

Her desserts come out of Grandma Motta's Italian Kitchen, whenever Rosemarie and her sister-in-law, Catherine Motta, have a moment to bake. (Rosemarie says Catherine "makes cookies to die for.") The rest of the time, they're dishing up traditional Italian fare to take out; heat and serve; or if one of the 12 seats is unoccupied, eat in-house.

The Kitchen, which opened in March and is owned by Rosemarie's brother Joseph Motta, has been drawing a crowd of meatball aficionados. "First one person came in and ordered a couple of meatballs. Then someone wanted six. Good meatballs are hard to find, even in [Bay Ridge]," says Rosemarie.

Peek under the restaurant's burgundy-and-green striped awning, and you'll see the women filling display cases with trays of eggplant Parmesan, stuffed peppers, baked ziti and roasted chicken.

"It's the kind of food I enjoyed in my grandmother's kitchen, and the sort of cooking I prepare for my own family," says Rosemarie, who is pictured beneath a portrait of Grandma (Adele) Motta with Catherine, left. The women will also make anything to order that a customer craves: hero sandwiches are in demand, so they'll fill a fresh Italian roll with sausages or chicken Parmesan.

The same goes for the pasta dishes. "Whatever they want, however they want it, we'll fix it for them," says Rosemarie. "We try to make everyone happy."

Grandma Motta's (8407 Third Ave., between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge) accepts American Express, Discover, Diner's Club, MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday. Closed Sundays. Entrees: \$6-\$12.95. Catering is available. The kitchen will deliver in the immediate area. For information, call (718) 836-2711.

Tina Barry

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Artful clues

Artist/author taps memories of Pratt Institute for inspiration for his new murder-mystery

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

In Jonathan Santlofer's latest novel, no one is safe from a madman bearing a matte knife — not the museum curator or an elderly artist in her Tarrytown studio. Santlofer, an author and a painter, writes about what he knows best — New York's art world — so obviously, that's where his charmingly idiosyncratic characters must be slain.

"The Killing Art" was inspired by Santlofer's stint as an assistant to painter George McNeil while he was a graduate student at Pratt Institute in Clinton Hill. The author told GO Brooklyn that he maintained his friendship with McNeil (1908-1995) after he'd earned his master's of fine arts and moved to Park Slope.

In this book — Santlofer's third starring ex-cop-turned art historian Kate McKinnon — the heroine is rebuilding her life after the murder of her husband by researching a book and documentary about New York's Abstract Expressionists of the 1950s.

But when one of her friends is slashed — along with his valuable Franz Kline painting — McKinnon offers to help the New York Police Department's Art Squad.

Real artists of the New York School — like Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock in addition to Kline — make an appearance in both Santlofer's and McKinnon's work, but fictional artists are also woven in.

The character of Phillip Zander, for example, was inspired in part by McNeil, particularly "the kindly aspect of him."

"I loved him," said Santlofer. "I think there is a whole generation of [Pratt] artists who feel similarly. I run into them from time to time. George was an extraordinary teacher and person."

"He died a few years ago, and I was close to him, so I think he would have thought it was a hoot that he inspired Zander. He had a great outlook on the world, and he would have thought [the depiction] was really smart — especially that he was a grand old man of success. He would have liked it."

"At the end of the book, I think him for his inspiration and paraphrased him

BOOKS

"The Killing Art" by Jonathan Santlofer (William Morrow, \$24.95) is available, or can be ordered, at these bookstores: The Bookmark Shoppe (6906 11th Ave. at 69th Street, Dyker Heights (718) 680-3680), BookCourt (163 Court St. at Dean Street in Cobble Hill (718) 875-3671) and Barnes & Noble (267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-9064).

telling me to 'put the insanity into my artwork and keep my life sane.'

In fact, Santlofer says that he modeled Zander's young, mustachioed assistant, Jules, on himself and the paternal relationship he had with McNeil more than two decades ago.

But the autobiographical elements end there. McKinnon, after all, is "a woman, rich and tall — all the things I am not," Santlofer laughed. (Much of his research in establishing McKinnon's metamorphosis from cashmere-wearing high-society girl to downtown hipster was supplied by his daughter, Doria.)

Like Dan Brown's blockbuster "The Da Vinci Code," Santlofer's novels fold art history into their storylines. Brown's novel so skillfully wove together fact and fiction that some readers found it difficult to remember that the book was entertainment only — not history.

But Santlofer sets the record straight about "The Killing Art" in his acknowledgments: "There are many wonderful books about the early years of New York's art world which have been helpful, and I recommend them for a deeper (and factual) understanding of the period."

He told GO Brooklyn, "It's kind of a split responsibility. [Novelists] are telling you off the bat it's not all true. If [readers] want to be informed, they have to do research. At the end of my book, I write 'read the following books,' so I kind of



Left: Top: Wilson

Brush with death: Mystery writer Jonathan Santlofer (above) painted the murderer's clues (hanging on the wall behind the artist) for his latest book, "The Killing Art."

wiggled out of it. But Dan Brown doesn't say it, and it was really smart of him to do that."

Santlofer asserts that many of the most outlandish aspects of the art world that he

chronicles in "The Killing Art" are too crazy to be fiction. There really is, for example, a secret club of women who adopt the names of famous female

painters, like Georgia O'Keeffe, and disguise themselves with gorilla masks to protest museums that don't give female artists a fair shake. In "The Killing Art," visitors to an exhibition are tagged with "Guerrilla Girls" stickers, which makes the activists suspects when a costly painting is slashed.

Here again, the lines between McKinnon and her creator are blurred. Santlofer said that since the book was released last month, he has been contacted by one of the Guerrilla Girls. She has asked to meet with him, and he

has agreed.

"But she will only meet me in her gorilla mask," he said.

Further helping the reader suspend disbelief in "The Killing Art," are reproductions of Santlofer's real paintings. In the book, the killer sends a painting as a calling card to his intended victim. McKinnon scrutinizes the paintings for clues to the killer's identity and to predict where he might strike next. Santlofer painted the black and white works that are reproduced in the book so that the reader can interpret the symbols along with McKinnon.

"Seeing is believing," said Santlofer. "I made the paintings to confirm [the story] was true."

"The exercise proved to be so enjoyable for Santlofer that his next book will also weave together 'prose and graphics.' But the book, which he's working on now at the Saratoga Springs artist colony, Yaddo, won't have Kate McKinnon.

"I've given her a vacation," said Santlofer, quickly assuring the fans of his suspenseful trilogy that "she's alive and well."

Knitting nations together

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

In person, British author Rachael Matthews is just as outlandish as the illustrations in her new guidebook, "Knitarama: 25 Great & Glam Things to Knit." The self-appointed knitting ambassador made a special appearance at the "Holiday Craftacular" in Greenpoint on Dec. 17. While wielding four-foot-long knitting needles ("to knit carpets and curtains," of course), Matthews (pictured) wore a knitted duck, perched on a knitted nest full of knitted eggs — on her head.

Her whimsical hat couldn't help but draw attention to Matthews's mission to raise enthusiasm about "knitting in public," her personal catchphrase.

"It's really amazing and different from what we have in England," said Matthews of the "Craftacular." "People were openly inquisitive about the craft. In England, people are supportive, but don't ask so many questions about how to do it."

Through her book and through her nomadic club, Cast Off, which she co-founded in London in 2001, the East London resident is encouraging folks to take their knitting into unexpected places: posh bars, nightclubs and on "the tube." London's subway. (Of

course, for nightclubs with poor lighting, Matthews recommends wearing a miner's hat.)

Matthews's book sets itself apart from the usual manuals with instructions on how to make clothing by encouraging readers to tackle soft sculptures, knitted cakes, ham sandwiches and pints of stout. One might call these examples of Matthews's "extreme knitting."

"It's a 3-D medium," said Matthews. "There are so many different yarns and needle sizes, you can work in 2-D and 3-D. There's a lot more freedom once you get past the idea of knitting clothing."

But she does include patterns for wearable art, too, including fried-egg earmuffs and a hat (and seemingly easy to make) cardigan made of 30 rectangles and four buttons.

"Knitting is really important for your well-being, for therapy and love, really," explained Matthews. "When you're knitting for someone else, it's for love. So whether it's done in a lonesome way [at home] or teaching the world to knit, I like to live knit as a way of life."

"Knitarama: 25 Great & Glam Things to Knit" by Rachael Matthews (MQ Publications, \$16.95) can be purchased through www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com. For more information about Cast Off, visit www.castoff.info.

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- "I think Laura Ludwig affectionately and respectfully as the first new poetry superstar of the Millennium." — Joe Franklin, Broadcaster, WOL 94.9 WBBR-FM
- "Laura Lonshein Ludwig's narrative poetry takes her driven characters on a frenetic ride through a science fiction landscape that resonates with the world around us, leaving us seeing the familiar for the first time!" — Frederick Geobold, Producer/Host, The Light Show, WBAI-FM
- "I read Laura Lonshein Ludwig's poetry, screenplays and short stories. She is incredible, and so good that I collaborated with her on a screenplay that I am producing with Joe Franklin. The book, Laura has a great imagination, terrific wit. Laura Ludwig is my definition of Mel Brooks, she is genius." — Richard Orstein, Producer, Screenwriter
- "Laura Lonshein Ludwig's poems are excursions into complex thought and even more complex feelings. They are incantatory, dreamlike, and multidimensional meditations which, in their passionate intellectuality and articulate humanity, come to grips with the frightening aspects of how we live now." — Dr. Joseph S. Salerni, Poet, Translator Scholar, Dept of Humanities, New York University and Department of Classics at both Brooklyn College and Hunter College, City University of New York

Sounds Like a Plot

Characters from Laura Lonshein Ludwig's first book, Robo Sapiens, to her new book Sounds Like a Plot — another classic by the recipient of four Poets and Writers grants from the New York State Council of the Arts and author of five screenplays. Sounds Like a Plot was reviewed by the legendary comic Professor Irvin Corey. Ms. Ludwig is listed in Who's Who of American Women 2002-2003. This is a book of satire about city life.

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HOLIDAY SERVICE: at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 11 pm. Fourth and Ovington avenues. (718) 748-9502.

Sun, Dec 25

Christmas
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HANUKKAH EVENT: A towering menorah is lit every night in front of the state Supreme Court building in Downtown Brooklyn. 5 pm. Court and Montague streets. Music and hot latkes. Free menorahs and candles will be distributed. (718) 596-4840. Free.

MEMORAH LIGHTING: Celebration of Hanukkah with a public menorah lighting. Live band, hot latkes and gifts for children. 6 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (347) 885-6675. Free.
HANUKKAH BOWL: Adults, teens and children celebrate the holiday's first night with bowling, music, games, face painting and pizza. \$10 all included. 6 pm. Lanes 1570 60th St. (718) 398-7753.

BARBERS B&B: hosts a reading series. 6 pm. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177. Free.
SHORTS: Brooklyn Lyceum presents "An Evening of the World's Best Short Films." \$10. 7 pm to 9 pm. 225 Fourth Ave. www.brooklyn-lyceum.com. (718) 857-4816.

Mon, Dec 26

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents Shakespeare's Globe Theater of London in "Measure for Measure." All-male cast, period music and Elizabethan costumes. \$60. 7:30 pm. 38 Water St. (718) 254-8779.

HANUKKAH EVENT: Menorah is lit in front of the state Supreme Court building. 5 pm. See Sun, Dec. 25.

MEMORAH LIGHTING: 6 pm. Grand Army Plaza. See Sun, Dec. 25.

Tues, Dec 27

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents "Imagine a Joyous World," a film about John Lennon. Ages 6 and older. \$4. free for members. 1 pm to 2 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 755-4400.

LATKE EATING COMPETITION: and menorah lighting by Borough President Mark Markowitz. In front of the state Supreme Court building. 5 pm. See Sun, Dec. 25.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Measure for Measure." 7:30 pm. See Mon, Dec. 26.

Wed, Dec 28

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents a Kwanzaa celebration. \$4. free for members. 2:30 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 755-4400.

KWANZAA PARTY: at the Society for Ethical Culture. 6 pm and 8 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 755-4400.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Measure for Measure." 7:30 pm. See Mon, Dec. 26.

HANUKKAH EVENT: Menorah is lit in front of the state Supreme Court building. 5 pm. See Sun, Dec. 25.

MEMORAH LIGHTING: 6 pm. Grand Army Plaza. See Sun, Dec. 25.

Thurs, Dec 29

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Celebrate the new year Brazilian-style. Arts and crafts projects and music. Appropriate for ages 6 and older. \$4. free for members. 3 pm to 4 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 755-4400.

HANUKKAH EVENT: Menorah is lit in front of the state Supreme Court building. 5 pm. See Sun, Dec. 25.

MEMORAH LIGHTING: 6 pm. Grand Army Plaza. See Sun, Dec. 25.

HANUKKAH PARTY: hosted by Congregation B'nai Avraham of Brooklyn Heights. \$18 per person; \$36 per family. 7 pm to 9 pm. 117 Remsen St. (718) 596-4840.

BLOWING BUBBLES: Greene Grape champagne tasting. 6 pm to 8 pm. 745 Fulton St. (718) 797-9462. Free.

CINEMA NIGHT: Harbor Defense Museum hosts a military history night and presents "Master and Commander" (2003). 7 pm. 101st Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway. (718) 630-4349. Free.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Measure for Measure." 7:30 pm. See Mon, Dec. 26.

Fri, Dec 30

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Dance party features holiday music. Members provided. \$4. free for members. 2:30 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 755-4400.

TWO BOOTS: Michael Todd and the Midnight Circus play blues. No cover. 10 pm. 514 Second St. (718) 499-2253.

HANUKKAH EVENT: Menorah is lit in front of the state Supreme Court building. 5 pm. See Sun, Dec. 25.

MEMORAH LIGHTING: 3:30 pm. Grand Army Plaza. See Sun, Dec. 25.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Measure for Measure." 7:30 pm. See Mon, Dec. 26.



Hanukkah celebration: Beginning Sunday evening, Dec. 25, a gigantic menorah will be lit in front of the state Supreme Court building in Downtown Brooklyn for eight consecutive nights. (Above) Rabbi Aaron Raskin of Congregation B'nai Avraham and Borough President Mark Markowitz light the menorah in 2002. This year, Markowitz will light the menorah—and judge a latke eating contest—at 5 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 27. Another large menorah will be lit nightly at Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope.

Sat, Dec 31

New Year's Eve

FIREWORKS: 24th annual display in Prospect Park. Best locations for viewing the fireworks include anywhere in Grand Army Plaza, inside the park on the West Drive, and along Prospect Park West and near the Midway Circle play area. No cover. 10 pm. 514 Second St. (718) 499-2253.

HANUKKAH EVENT: Menorah is lit in front of the state Supreme Court building. 5 pm. See Sun, Dec. 25.

MEMORAH LIGHTING: 3:30 pm. Grand Army Plaza. See Sun, Dec. 25.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Measure for Measure." 7:30 pm. See Mon, Dec. 26.

Sat, Dec 31

New Year's Eve

BARGEMUSIC: All-Back New Year's Eve concert. \$125. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

MEMORAH LIGHTING: Celebration of Hanukkah with a public menorah lighting. Live band, hot latkes and gifts for children. 6 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (347) 885-6675. Free.

HANUKKAH EVENT: Menorah is lit in front of the state Supreme Court building. 5 pm. See Sun, Dec. 25.

XPO LODGE: Winter monthly hosted by Expo at Gallery Music and dance. \$15. 8 pm. 347 Pearl St. (718) 797-2557.

PARTY 5: Fisher Center party and hot buffet. \$37.50. 118 for children 12

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PARTY 5: Fisher Center party and hot buffet. \$37.50. 118 for children 12

and younger. 8 pm. Bath Avenue and Bay 20th Street. (718) 236-3212.

CONCERT: Congregation B'nai Jacob's Hanukkah concert with band, dancing and a juggler. \$5 includes CDs for children. 6 pm to 10:30 pm. (718) 624-2083.

MEMORAH LIGHTING: 3:30 pm. Grand Army Plaza. See Sun, Dec. 25.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Measure for Measure." 7:30 pm. See Mon, Dec. 26.

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BLOWING BUBBLES: Greene Grape champagne tasting. 6 pm to 8 pm. 745 Fulton St. (718) 797-9462. Free.

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HANUKKAH PARTY: hosted



Recycling Tips for the Holidays

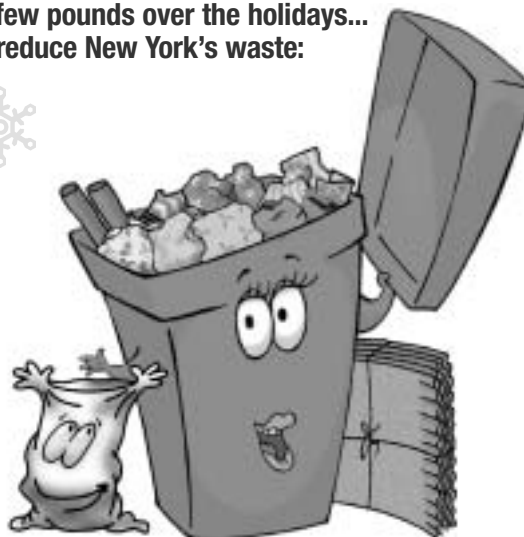
Everyone worries about gaining a few pounds over the holidays...
Here are some easy ways to reduce New York's waste:

Recycle your holiday cards and promotional mail

This time of year, we get inundated with mail and catalogs. When you're done with these, recycle them with your mixed paper and cardboard. **Do this year round with all unwanted mail!**

Recycle paper gift wrap and cardboard boxes

Paper gift wrap and cardboard tubes are recyclable. So are the cardboard boxes that contain your presents. Recycle these along with your other mixed paper and cardboard.



Need recycling information? Call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless

Recycle your tree!

Remove all lights, ornaments, stands, and plastic bags.

MulchFest:

Saturday and Sunday, January 7 & 8
10 am - 2 pm



Bring your **clean** Christmas trees to designated parks, where they will be chipped into mulch. Bring a bag if you want to take away mulch for your own use. For MulchFest locations, call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/parks.

If you miss MulchFest, the Department of Sanitation will collect clean Christmas trees left at the curb from Wednesday, January 4 through Saturday, January 14. Trees are chipped, mixed with fall leaves, and recycled into rich compost for NYC's parks, community gardens, and residents like you!

Check the Compost Project website for upcoming workshops and events: www.nyccompost.org



City of New York, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Department of Sanitation, John J. Doherty, Commissioner
Call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/sanitation



[illegible]

OUR OPINION

No angels in strike

Far be it from us to inject ourselves into the negotiations between the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and its striking union workers, but a few issues seem to be eluding many New Yorkers.

Certainly, there are no winners in this strike, and not even stranded straphangers can settle on a villain just yet, alternating between the fat cats on the MTA board and the "greedy" workers (as an aside, we still subscribe to the apparently old-fashioned notion that the men and women who toil underground for their living deserve as much respect as their air-conditioned bosses).

But one thing is clear: The MTA does not own the moral high ground that it has claimed.

No, the agency's bargaining position—namely that new employees agree to a retirement age of 62 instead of the current 55 and that workers pay roughly \$10 per week towards their health care coverage—is not unreasonable.

But the MTA has been a poor steward of the very resources that could help satisfy the wage demands of its workers.

Let us forget the MTA's own appraiser put the value of the Atlantic Yards site at \$214.5 million—yet the cash-strapped transit

agency sold those development rights to Bruce Ratner for a mere \$100 million, forfeiting a true competitive bidding process.

Over in Manhattan, the Hudson Yards were appraised at \$300 million, yet the agency was happy to accept the New York Jets' \$250-million bid (which was eventually killed by a different state board).

"I'm not going to be subject to what an appraiser says," MTA Chairman Peter Kalikow said at the time of the Ratner sale.

That was dumb talk from the man who is supposed to make the trains run on time—not give handouts to developers. Those rail

yards are, after all, the public's land, and they should be developed for public, not private, benefit.

On the other side are Kalikow's 33,000 employees, who earn an average of \$55,000 a year, with overtime. That's slightly below the city-wide average of \$60,000, and twice the Brooklyn average—but the value of those wages is far greater when MTA workers' kingly benefits are added in.

Indeed, the union's demands are as maddening as the MTA's "best" offer. Perhaps we're in the wrong line of work, but we won't get to retire at 55 with a half-salary pension.

ALL DRAWN OUT



COURTESY: PAPERWORK

TO THE EDITOR

Mistakes piling up in The Papers' headlines

To the editor:

Since when is The Brooklyn Papers illiterate? I was shocked to find typos in not one but two headlines on the front page last week (Dec. 17). In one sub-headline, you wrote, "Historic sphere found in a hidden draw." Hello? DRAW? True, some of us here in Brooklyn may pronounce the word "drawer" that way, but that doesn't mean you spell it that way!

And another story had a headline, "Hanging thrust at woman on Smith," which almost sounds obscene.

I have a theory about your growing illiteracy. We all know that Republicans aren't funding education because they know that an educated populace would never elect Republicans. Their cynicism means that uneducated young people will have problems finding jobs in the 21st

century—except at The Brooklyn Papers, where illiteracy is clearly no bar to employment.

Rosaria Sinisi, Fort Greene
Editor's note: Wee apologise, but our catpoo editor use olm say-cuphler last time. Do weold, oit help-te to do betta.

Yellow journalism

To the editor:

How could you! My husband was the victim of one of the crimes in your police blotter ("02/68 Blotter," Dec. 17). He had been robbed by a man who smeared ketchup on his jacket, and you ran the headline, "Hold the mustard!"

The original crime was extremely traumatic for my husband—and your headline only mocked him further.

We lost \$700, but what was

worse was that you made fun of our terrible family situation.

I agree that you need to publish stories about such crimes to let people in the neighborhood know that there are animals out there, but you do not need to mock the victims.

Name withheld, Bay Ridge

Editor's note: The Brooklyn Papers makes every effort to ensure that victims of crimes are not mocked. In fact,

we do not print the names of crime victims. But to ensure that stories are read and absorbed, we do sometimes resort to the time-honored journalistic tradition of eye-catching headlines.

We consider the Police blotter an important public service, and, in reporting scans and the activities of con artists, we hope that our readers can learn from the bad experiences of others, so they don't suffer the same fate.

Send us a letter

Here's how to send The Brooklyn Papers a letter for publication.

E-Mail: Letters@BrooklynPapers.com
• Fax: (718) 834-9278
• Mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Ste 624 Brooklyn, NY 11201.
Please include your address and

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RATNER...

Continued from page 1

lapse due to structural weakness.

Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights) challenged the engineer's report.

"I have a serious problem with their contention that the buildings are unsound," James said. "At this point, it looks to me like a show of confidence to their investors."

"They are creating blight by demolition to move the project forward," she added.

In a letter to the developer, James, state Sen. Velmanette Montgomery (D-Fort Greene) and Rep. Major Owens (D-Crown Heights) accused him of starting demolition work as a ploy to show that the neighborhood is blighted—a requirement before land can be condemned for seizure through eminent domain.

Ratner owns 92 percent of the residential properties within the footprint of his project. Remaining building owners are quickly selling out.

"People from Ratner's company call me and now I talk with them," said Jason Bijur, who owns a 16-family apartment building at 473 Dean St., between Flatbush and Sixth avenues.

All over the neighborhood, longtime businesses and residents are moving out, knowing that the Ratner project has finally entered its initial phase—the first tangible evidence of the developer's effort to reshape an entire neighborhood.

"The demolition is on its way," said Dan Kershenbaum, who packed up a lifetime's belongings for nineyosomething artist Louise Bourgeois, who owned a studio at 475 Dean St.

Bourgeois agreed to be out of the building by Jan. 29, Kershenbaum said. Ratner is paying for her relocation.

At Harriet's Alter Ego, a clothing boutique on Flatbush, a half off "We're Moving" sale was in full-swing this week. The store will close on Dec. 31 and reopen farther east on Flatbush Avenue in a space partially subsidized by the developer.

Despite the physical manifestations of the project's advancement this week, the lead state agency is not expected to approve the draft Environmental Impact Statement and Ratner's use of eminent domain until early in 2006.

"We believe the condemnations could start as early as May or June," said Daniel Goldstein, spokesman for Develop—Don't Destroy Brooklyn.

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By Richard A. Klass, Esq.

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The United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (which covers New York State) held, in *Brunner v. New York State Higher Education Services Corp.*, 831 F.2d 395 (1987), that in order to discharge a student loan for undue hardship reasons, the debtor must show: (a) that he cannot maintain a "minimal" standard of living for himself and his dependents if forced to repay the loan; (b) circumstances exist which indicate that this state of affairs will likely continue for a significant portion of the loan repayment period; and (c) that he has made a good faith effort to repay the loan. The *Brunner* elements have been adopted for case analysis in many Bankruptcy Courts throughout the country.

Richard A. Klass, Esq., maintains a law firm engaged in general civil practice at 16 Court St. in Brooklyn Heights. He may be reached at (718) COURT-ST or RickKlass@courtestreetlaw.com for any questions.

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